Case 2600

Sorites Ehrenberg, 1839 (Foraminiferida): proposed designation of *Nautilus orbiculus* Forskål, 1775 as type species

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to designate *Nautilus orbiculus* Forskål, 1775 as type species of *Sorites* Ehrenberg, 1839, an important foraminiferan genus. This is in place of *Sorites dominicensis* Ehrenberg, 1839, for which there is no extant type and whose identity is in doubt, although it has been considered a junior synonym of *orbiculus* Forskål.

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1. *Sorites* Ehrenberg, 1839 (p. 134) was first described as the type genus of the family Soritina and originally included two nominal species, *Nautilus orbiculus* Forskål, 1775 (p. 125) and Ehrenberg's new species *Sorites dominicensis*. Neither was indicated as type species.

2. The family name 'Soritina' was first proposed by Ehrenberg in 1838 (p. 200) but was then not available as *Sorites* was not proposed until 1839 (Article 29a); both names date from 1839. A subfamily SORITINAE was described by Wiesner (1931, p. 60, 74, 111) and the family name was spelled as SORITIDAE by Galloway (1933, p. 132). The superfamily 'Soritinidea' described by Saidova (1981, p. 34) was spelled as Soritacea by Haynes (1981, p. 168).

3. Of the two originally included species, *Sorites orbiculus* (Forskål) was illustrated by Ehrenberg, and said to occur in the Red Sea and off the coast of Libya; it has since been reported as widely distributed in the Caribbean and Indo-Pacific regions (Cole, 1965, p. 21). *Sorites dominicensis* was briefly described as from 'San Domingo' by Ehrenberg but was not figured, and has not been reported as a recognised living species since the original description, although it has been placed in synonymy with various other species.

4. Although its true identity was in doubt, *Sorites dominicensis* was designated as the type species of *Sorites* by Cushman (1927, p. 190). Smout (1963, p. 259) regarded it as a nomen dubium. Loeblich & Tappan (1964, p. C496) considered it to be a synonym of *Orbulites marginalis* Lamarck, 1816 (p. 196), but Cole (1965, p. 20) stated that identifications of *S. marginalis* from the Caribbean were incorrect, and that '*Sorites dominicensis* Ehrenberg from the Recent Caribbean can be equated reasonably with *Sorites orbiculus* Forskål, 1775, . . . it appears that *Sorites dominicensis* is a junior synonym of *Sorites orbiculus*, thus *S. orbiculus* would be the type of *Sorites*'. This opinion appears to be generally accepted, and *Sorites* regarded as a genus typified by *S. orbiculus*.

5. A neotype was designated for *Nautilus orbiculus* (Smout, 1963, p. 259), but illustrated only by two poorly reproduced photographs of the exterior; nothing can be determined of the inner structure, and the aperture cannot be resolved in the edge view.

However, the species has been well described and illustrated by others, both externally and internally.

6. Thus, of the two originally included species, *Nautilus orbiculus* is a well known and widely distributed species, for which a neotype has been designated, whereas *Sorites dominicensis* is generally regarded as conspecific with *N. orbiculus*.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous designations of type species made for the nominal genus *Sorites* Ehrenberg, 1839 and to designate *Nautilus orbiculus* Forskål, 1775;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Sorites* Ehrenberg, 1839 (gender: masculine), type species, by designation in (1) above, *Nautilus orbiculus* Forskål, 1775;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *orbiculus* Forskål, 1775, as published in the binomen *Nautilus orbiculus* (specific name of the type species of *Sorites* Ehrenberg, 1839);

(4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name SORITIDAE Ehrenberg, 1839 (type genus *Sorites* Ehrenberg, 1839).

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